## June 23, 2011 meeting minutes Cambridge GLBT Commission

## THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2011

Call to Order.

Kevin Shpritzer recorded these minutes. The minutes of the May 26 meeting were approved Agenda for the June 23 meeting was accepted.

John G. announced that the commission will meet on the third Thursday of August, the 18th.

<u>Commissioners Present:</u> John Gintell, Steven Lee, Jeff Walker, Mal Malme, Tony Wieczorek, Kevin Shpritzer, Aren Stone, Mike McKenna, Lesley Phillips

<u>Commissioners Absent:</u> (excused) – Sarav Chidambaram, Bob Parlin, Robert Coats, Marianne Mondt, Priscilla Lee

Guests: Karey Kenst (intern), Chris Burke (Superintendent Cambridge Police Dept.), Linda Pinti

- I. Commissioners introduced themselves to Karey K.
- II. **Discussion of Seniors Health Care and Housing Project** John G. explained the history of this project and how the intern position was created. Karey K. explained that she started last week and was happy to be meeting the commission and getting started on the project. She was hired in the Mayor's office and is supervised by Lee Gianetti. She is trying to make a plan for her ten weeks (now eight) on the project. She wants to create a more detailed project plan that the commission can use going forward. She would like to review existing literature around senior GLBT issues around housing. She'd like to compile a database of relevant and useful services that are available for GLBT seniors. Karey wants to narrow the focus and would like help prioritizing issues to tend to. What would the commission like from her at the end of her time?
  - a. Tony W. suggested making the databases as public as possible.
  - b. Jeff W. suggested that to make a database and keep it up-to-date, we should identify agencies that we can contact at any time who has that information. Cambridge/Somerville Resource Guide. He also proposed conducting a needs assessment to help figure out what we can do to help. Perhaps we could conduct a survey to find out how much of the senior population in Cambridge identifies as GLBT.
  - c. Mal M. suggested following up with other work that has already been done and to find out which service providers have been trained and to what extent.
  - d. John G. suggested getting in touch with leaders at places such as the Cambridge Health Alliance and/or Cadbury Commons to find out what they have in mind and what help they could use.
  - e. Aren S. questioned whether considering health care *and* housing issues is too broad of a subject. The commission decided to focus solely on housing.

- f. Jeff W. wants the commission to identify our jurisdiction and consider keeping our focus on city-run agencies.
- g. John G. said we could still survey the private facilities.
- h. Kevin S. suggested contacting the Cambridge Housing Authority whose website says they have Service Coordinators who conduct needs senior housing needs assessments. It would be great to explore whether they have identified the needs of GLBT seniors.
- i. Jeff W. said the city could possibly mandate that all city agencies have GLBT-friendly policies, which could be a good jumping-off point. He wants to increase GLBT visibility to allow GLBT residents to feel more comfortable.
- j. Tony W. thought having an elderly GLBT movie night or doing other outreach events would be helpful.
- k. Karey K.'s summary plan:
  - i. Find out what facilities are we talking about?
  - ii. Two different potential surveys
    - 1. One surveying the facilities themselves around their policies and practices around GLBT issues
    - 2. One around the residents' perceptions and concerns about GLBT issues
- 1. Mal M. suggested adding visibility or communications to let people know that Karey's intern position has been created by the mayor's office. Jeff W. thought that she could possibly obtain a letter from the mayor explaining the position and send it out to various local GLBT media outlets.
- III. **Website/Facebook Page** Content cannot be changed directly by all commissioners (that has been fixed now). John G. would like more stories to be updated on the website to attract visitors. Mal M. would like to get more people onto our Facebook site. John G. will try to put a link to our Facebook page on the city site. We should use the Facebook page more often to increase visibility.
- IV. **Brochure** The brochure should be updated to include information about the Facebook page and the Senior Housing Project.
- V. **Joint Meetings** Aren S. suggested that joint meetings between commissions occur to share information. This suggestion was a result of Aren's discussion with Colleen Johnston (Executive Directory of the Human Rights Commission). Perhaps there should be a reception with food, to make the meeting more fun and exciting to attend, where each commission makes a brief presentation about what they're working on. John G. recommended talking to Brian Corr (the director of the Peace Commission) about helping to organize such a meeting. Aren S. will contact the heads of the various city commissions about this.

## VI. Project Updates

a. John G. talked to Gunner Scott about getting a transgender training done with a large audience including people from various city departments, school leaders, and other community leaders. Gunner supported this idea.

- b. Mal M. will see if Gunner can come to our September meeting.
  Mal M. would like Mandy from Youth On Fire to come discuss what they do.
  Mandy said that coming in the fall (i.e. October or November) would be easiest for her. Perhaps we can create a community event to support YOF, or promote the organization on our website or Facebook page.
- VII. **Public Comment** Linda P. spoke about her history running for election commissioner. She was the first person in city history to win the election by the Democratic City Committee and not be appointed by the City Manager.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.